

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

September 28, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Paul Bowden, Honorable Judge Mimi Cooper, Warden Elwood DeHaven, Dave Ennis, Fred Hatem, Sandy Holmes, Beth Jones, Catherine Kansler, Robin Keener, Susan Kelly, Kathy Kraft, Sharon Lipford, Patrick McCracken, George Nikas, Christin Rocha, Joe Ryan, and Dr. Christalene Saldanha.

Robin Keener chaired the meeting.

Robin Keener states the Member Orientation Binders have been made to help describe the role of the MHAAC. **Judge Mimi Cooper** states a suggestion of placing revision dates at the bottom of the pages in the binder.

Robin Keener states she would like for the MHAAC council to come up with a council plan.

Sharon Lipford states that with all the new members on the council, the idea of the binders took place. The thought of capturing the accomplishments of the MHAAC is included in the binders. The implementations of the accomplishments do not always come back to the council, so the accomplishments can show what we can accomplish when we come together as a group.

Robin Keener stated is there anyone on the council that wants to have more come out of the council, that the council is not currently doing.

Christin Rocha states she would like to see more options for treatment facilities.

Fred Hatem states he would like to see some encouragement that some public transportation is offered, specifically in the north end of the county.

Robin Keener stated there is a liability issue with transportation. **Robin Keener** states that possibly locating a church to pick up a hotline for transportation issues. **Warden Elwood DeHaven** states they have a voucher system for recently released parolees.

Warden Elwood DeHaven states the voucher system works by contracting with a taxi cab company. If the parolee does not have transportation, they will call the taxi cab service, and they will give them the voucher. It only takes them to certain parts of the county but not out of the county. **Judge Mimi Cooper** asks who is funding the vouchers. **Warden Elwood DeHaven** states it is a grant of \$4,000. Last year when it started in July, the funds ran out in November and the Sherriff's office supplemented it.

Judge Mimi Cooper asks if there is any other time when an inmate comes out that they don't have access to the vouchers.

Warden Elwood DeHaven states that other than their processing center, they have the vouchers right there.

Joe Ryan states that if treatment were now considered a medical service, under the new healthcare plan, if individuals would be entitled to transportation.

Dave Ennis states Medicaid is paying for transportation to a medical appointment.

Robin Keener states that transportation is still an issue.

Joe Ryan states for everyone to keep their eyes open and send a representative to a public meeting about transportation. Explain that transportation for treatment services is an issue, and is there any way they can help us. He can call Jim Ports and speak with him.

Judge Mimi Cooper states she has spoke with Mary Chance about this issue. **Judge Mimi Cooper** suggests inviting Jim Ports and Mary Chance to attend the next meeting.

Robin Keener states if everyone could address his or her specifics to Jim Ports and Mary Chance, then that would be a goal to work towards.

Sharon Lipford states she would like to see the need for specialized treatment for young adults. We need a facility here for transitional aged housing where young adults who have a serious mental illness can have a dedicated housing.

Beth Jones stated ROSC is where the clients are not being seen face to face and are focusing on mental health. Starting planning on November 1 for .05 for adults, which is an educational base for people who don't meet criteria. This supplies education so they won't re-offend.

Judge Mimi Cooper states these individuals are ones who end up in the criminal justice system, and test positive for a substance but not a re-occurring problem but an intermittent problem.

Beth Jones states this program is dedicated just for these individuals. It will not be mixed in with Level 1 adults. Continuing care will be rolled out next month. The county trainer for continuing care is Mary Claire Brett.

Judge Mimi Cooper states the goal is to be more realistic about a patient's health and expectations.

Dave Ennis states there is a list of protective factors. If you score high, you can come back for detox. Continuing care can replace outpatient care load. **Christin Rocha** states how the tracking occurs. **Dave Ennis** states that you can print out a list of clients in continuing care and see when their next appointments are.

Sharon Lipford asked **Susan Kelly** about the tracking system they had for the H1N1, and could it be used for this. **Susan Kelly** states the Health Department did the 211, Pac Trak, but the Pac Trak has bells and whistles that have not been utilized yet. For appointment scheduling Pat Trac is very effective and multiple people can use the screen at the same time. Double booking does not occur with this system.

Judge Mimi Cooper asks if outcome evaluations have been done with continuing care.

Dave Ennis states it is evidence based services.

Judge Mimi Cooper states Parole and Probation should be included. Communicate to Judges and Parole and Probation so we don't have unnecessary violations.

Dave Ennis states that this is not in COMAR.

Susan Kelly asks **Dave Ennis** if there is something on his website that she can forward to **Judge Mimi Cooper** so she can forward to other Judges. **Dave Ennis** states that there is a Continuing Care Manual on the website.

Dave Ennis states training just started, and training will occur here in two weeks.

Dave Ennis states that the future of addictions treatment will be funded radically differently. The PAC Expansion has been funded to cover outpatient addictions treatment. Our programs are aggressively screening people for eligibility for PAC. By 2014, we expect that the majority of the people in the society will have healthcare coverage. That being said, there will not be much need for grant funded programs. Grant money will be diverted to help paying for healthcare reform. Anyone will be able to go to any willing provider to receive healthcare and go to any certified provider for treatment. Expect what is left of grant money will be used to pay for several different things, continuing care being one of them. They have applied to SAMHSA for an ATR Grant. This grant will target people coming out of high level residential programs and looking at what are the barriers for them to access them to being covered. The case managers will interview the person; see what they need to knock down the barriers to recovery. The kinds of things we anticipate will be covered are family counseling, transportation, housing, job counseling, and childcare. The childcare is for while you are going for treatment. The ATR coordinator will issue vouchers for these services, the client can use them to go to whichever provider they choose. They have to have a minimum of 2 providers and 1 has to be faith based.

Robin Keener asks what time frame we are looking at. **Dave Ennis** states by 2014 it should be fully implemented.

Dave Ennis states this is a big component of ROSC, it intends to remove barriers of individuals so they can get recovery.

Robin Keener states if there is somewhere on his website that they can read more about his information. **Dave Ennis** states not yet because they have not received the grant.

Sharon Lipford states they had CMS (Center for Medicaid Services) federal site visit came to monitor the Health Department Teen Diversion Program. They were very impressed and the State said we hit a home run. The Success Academy in partnership with HCPS and CSA is being launched where students are being transitioned from Edgewood Middle who have intensive mental health, transition, addiction and transitional needs is being started in Edgewood High School. This new program involved moving 8th graders coming into 9th grade and supply intensive wraparound services, and Upper Bay is the provider that was selected.

Robin Keener stated the May minutes were approved online. **Robin Keener** introduced **Dr. Christalene Saldanha**.

Dr. Saldanha stated she is a physician who practices in Aberdeen in Pain Management. She helps people who became addicted to prescription narcotics. Her practice focuses on writing prescriptions and making patients abstinent. We work with a couple of counselors in the area. The problem we are having is that patients want prescriptions and counselors at the same place. I can't offer them that, and that has made 2 trips for the patient already. We are seeing younger patients and we need mentors. **Dr. Saldanha** states there are obviously resources in the communities that her patients can access for long-term recovery. Three things her practice focuses on are alcohol abuse, drug addiction, opiates and cocaine. Alcohol abuse is what her practice primarily started with. She helps the patient detox on an outpatient basis. They are on a 7-10 day detox while they work, and then 4-6 months there is prescription management. After 6 months they can put the medication in their mouth, on a PRN basis. There is a new injectable form, given every 29 days; it is \$782 a shot. She only has 3 patients on the shot. The same medication is given in an oral form, but you have to have a compliant patient. The cost for the 7-10 day detox with medication is \$500. Vivatrol is the injection and Revia is the pill form. PAC vouchers are accepted.

Dr. Saldanha states there is a small fee for her program; there are certain things you have to do. We really need mentors for our younger clients.

Sharon Lipford states Harford County Government has a list under the Community Services of mentors, treatment providers, and faith based providers.

Robin Keener states to **Dave Ennis** how do we get grant money to the county from the ATR Grant. **Dave Ennis** states the ATR Grant will not bring grant money to the county, but it will bring vouchers. The ATR coordinators will be in charge with developing the

resources. If we get the grant we have to be up and running in 4 months. We expect to hear about the grant in the next 4 weeks.

Susan Kelly states Delegate Mary Dulaney James will be coming to the Health Department on September 30, 2010 to learn about the HOPE Program.

Patrick McCracken states he would like a flyer to be disbursed to the board about Tim Newnan's presentation "Who's Responsible about Addiction" at St. Stephen's Church on October 6, 2010 at 7:00.

Joe Ryan states the ODP participated in the Nationwide Take Back Day. 2 locations were set up, 1 in the Bel Air parking lot and one in Havre de Grace. We had over 300 participants, and over 700 pounds of prescription medications. On November 13 another Take Back Day will occur.

Adjournment